

It could not be made more simple than this: We are a nation of too many weapons, some in the hands of citizens that are not responsible. You have been charged with the duty to review our laws to see how we can prevent so many gun deaths.

March 14 marks 3 months since my town, Newtown, was torn apart by the most heinous act imaginable.

I have asked myself many times, why would a mother want to have a Bushmaster in her home, especially in light of her son's obvious difficulties? But more importantly, why does anyone want or need to have one of these weapons in their home? These are weapons designed for the military, for war, designed to kill quickly.

This is not a joke, our nation, our state of Connecticut, is no longer safe, even for little children in school. I am asking for common sense here:

1. **Long guns need to be treated the same as handguns. Permits, background checks.**
2. **Assault weapons should be classified as any semi-automatic rifle that has ONE of the now THREE add ons that put it in to that class. Don't hide under those semantics.**
3. **Large capacity magazines have no place in civilian hands.**
4. **No one should be able to walk into Walmart or any other business and buy a cart full of ammunition.**

Do the right thing, this is what you have been elected to do. The NRA and other lobbying groups like them have deep pockets but they do not have the majority of the people behind their extreme views.

We will not go away. We live with the pain every day. We cannot and we will not forget.

Maureen Wilson, Newtown